SIATRAS NUMISMATIC STUDIES, 11

Jean N. Svoronos

NUMISMATICS AND HISTORY OF MYCONOS

Translated into English and published by Demetrius Siatras

ATHENS 2023

00000000000000011:Σχέδιο 1 02/11/2023 08:14 Page 1

SIATRAS NUMISMATIC STUDIES, 11

Jean N. Svoronos

NUMISMATICS AND HISTORY OF MYCONOS

Translated into English and published by Demetrius Siatras

ATHENS 2023

00000000000000011:Σχέδιο 1 02/11/2023 08:14 Page 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 9

BIBLIOGRAPHY 11

CATALOGUE:

Α′ - Β'.	394 – 387 BC	15
Γ′.	387 – 378 BC	17
Δ′.	376 – 363 BC	18
Ε′.	363 – 311 BC.	19
Ϛ′.	308 – 266 BC	20
Ζ′.	244 – 221 BC	21
Η′ (α′).	167 – 88 BC.	22
(β′).	67 – 49 BC	22
Θ′.	27 BC – 14 AD	23
Wrong attributions		24

CHRONOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION BY STYLE 25

MYCONOS BEFORE THE INTRODUCTION OF COINAGE 27

COINS STRUCK IN MYCONOS, DELOS AND TENOS:

BEFORE THE GRECO-PERSIAN WARS 31

AFTER THE GRECO-PERSIAN WARS 37

GEOGRAPHY OF THE ISLAND:

CITIES AND THE *MELANTIOI SCOPELOI* 45

MYTHOLOGY AND COIN TΥPES 55

ADDENDUM 61

PLATES 63

INDEX 71

00000000000000011:Σχέδιο 1 02/11/2023 08:14 Page 9

INTRODUCTION

Few parts of the mainland Greece have mythology, history and geography so little known as Cyclades do. The causes are: first, everything that was written by the ancients has been lost, as *e.g.* the books *Νησιωτικὰ [= About the Islands]* by Aretades of Cnidus, *Νησιάδες* by Semos and Conon, *Περὶ νήσων* by Hermogenes of Smyrna, *Νήσων κτίσεις* by Philostephanus and Xenagoras, *Νήσων κτίσεις καὶ μετονομασίαι* by Callimachus, *Ναξιακὰ* by Aglaosthenes, Andriscus and Philteas, *Σιφνίων ὦροι* by Malacus, and *Πολιτεῖαι τῶν Ναξίων, Παρίων, Κυθνίων, Κείων* [= City states of the Naxians, Parians, Cythnians, Ceans, *etc.]* by Aristotle and Heraclides Ponticus; second, while many monographs were written in modern times, some of them being remarkable, no author attempted a general and detailed treatise with the exception of Antonios Meliarakis who in 1874 published the *Κυκλαδικά, ἤτοι γεωγραφία καὶ ἱστορία τῶν Κυκλάδων ἀπὸ τῶν ἀρχαιοτάτων χρόνων μέχρι τῆς καταλήψεως αὐτῶν ὑπὸ τῶν Φράγκων* [= Cycladica, Namely Geography and History of the Cyclades from the Most Ancient Times to the Frankish Occupation]. Nevertheless, this book — even if it was the product of a conscientious and long effort and study — is no more adequate because the recent archaeological finds, mainly those of the Delos' excavations by the French School, increased enormously our knowledge. Besides, Meliarakis' book has a big disadvantage since it omits the ancient coins, the dating of which could offer important historical material, in addition to the information the types of the coins would give about the local worship and art — and unfortunately in our days this happens with almost all historical monographs.

But the numismatists also did not sufficiently study until now the numismatics of the Cyclades, even if an abundance of material is available at the Museums and the numismatic books. The most important relevant studies, *i.e.* Wroth's brief introduction in the catalogue of the Cycladic coins of the British Museum, published in 1886, and Head's even shorter study in *Historia numorum*, are insufficient; though remark-

00000000000000011:Σχέδιο 1 02/11/2023 08:14 Page 10

able and wise, they do not compose a complete and detailed image of the Cycladic numismatics, liable to lead the special researcher of each island separately.

We know that the numismatist F. Imhoof-Blumer has long ago compiled a complete catalogue of the Aegean coins, but unfortunately this precious book has not been published. A complete catalogue accompanied by a historical study and chronological classification of the coins of each city would also illuminate the geography and, mostly, the history of the islands.

I publish here a part of a detailed monograph on Myconos, my birthplace, written years ago, when I was a student; it also contains its ancient coins, which are regarded as very rare, just to give a sample of the numismatic richness of the humble Cyclades and its importance for the archaeology of the islands in general.

00000000000000011:Σχέδιο 1 02/11/2023 08:14 Page 15

CATALOGUE

A′. 394 – 387 BC

1. Ⱥ 12 mm. — Head of Dionysus with pointed beard to the right, in a lined circle.

Ω Grape; below it a barley grain lying horizontally; in the field to the right and downwards from the top ΜΥ.

α) Paris, Cabinet des Médailles, no. 3323. — Pl. I, 1.

β) Piraeus, Alexandros Meletopoulos Collection [today Alpha Bank Collection, Athens]. — Pl. I, 2.

B′. Also 394 – 387 BC

2. Ⱥ 18 mm. — Bearded head of Dionysus, wreathed with ivy, to the right, with archaic style hair falling in locks on his shoulders.

Ω Μ—Υ / Κ—Ο around a grape hanging from its branch; a barley grain to the left.

α) Photiades Pasha Collection. Fröhner, *Catalogue de la coll. Phot*., Monn. grecques, p. 113, no. 1391. — Pl. I, 4.

β) Berlin (Königl. Münzkabinet). — Pl. I, 5.

γ) Paris, 3118. — Mionnet, *Description*, II, 320, 65 and *Suppl.* IV, 395, 224, described as bearing a head of Silenus or Bacchus Indicus.

δ) Cadalvène, *Recueil de méd. grecq.* (1828), p. 245, 2.

ε) Welzl de Wellenheim, *Catal. de monn.* I, 194, 4601.

Ⱥ = bronze, ΑΡΓ. = silver. α), β), *etc*. denote similar pieces.

Ω = Reverse.

(*) Translator's notes.

00000000000000011:Σχέδιο 1 02/11/2023 08:14 Page 24

Wrong attributions

Besides the above, we have noticed the following wrong attibutions:

1. A coin published by Pellerin, *Recueil de médailles des peuples,* III, pl. CV, 1 = Mionnet, *Description*, II, 320, 64, and Fr. de Dominici, *Repertorio numismatico*, p. 288, 245. Eckhel, *Doct. num. vet.*, II, p. 333, recognized it as not belonging to Myconos and Mionnet, *Suppl.* VI, 485 note, correctly attributed it to Cnidus.

2. The coin N^{o} 2 in the catalogue of the Museum R. Payne Knight, p. 26, which belongs, of course, to Corcyra.

3. The coin N^{o} 221 of Mionnet, *Suppl.* IV, 394, with the head of Sun to the right and a grape on the reverse looks like a Rhodian coin.

4. The published by Sestini coin of the Ainslie Collection, *Descriptio num. vet*., p. 230, 3, and according to him by Mionnet, *Suppl*. IV, 394, 226, with the description: *Tête casquée de femme, vue de face. Rev.* ΜΥΚΟΝΙΩΝ. *Bacchus debout, tenant de la main dr. le cantharus et de la g. un thyrse. Æ. 3*, is probably one of the many imaginary descriptions of Sestini.

5. Sestini also reports in *Classes générales*, second edition, p. 56 — and according to him also Mionnet, *Suppl.* IV, p. 394, and Barthélémy, *Manuel de numism.* (1866), page 199 — a coin struck by Domitian in Myconos, but he gives no description, probablyan illegible piece; perhaps he had in mind the poorly preserved coin of Augustus in the Paris Collection.

00000000000000011:Σχέδιο 1 02/11/2023 08:14 Page 25

CHRONOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION OF THE MYCONIAN COINS BY STYLE

As the reader sees, we classified the Myconian coins in nine classes (A'- Θ'), using as a guide this very style of the coins. Indeed, those of the class A', the most ancient of all, are characterized by the almost archaic form of Dionysus with pointed beard.[1] Immediately after these we have the class B' where the god is depicted with rolled hair of archaic style. Then follow the coins of Γ', with similar but ruder types and Dionysus with a thicker beard. The class Δ' presents the same types again but much more artful, the hair of the god being unbound and without braids. With the class E' the art approaches its highest peak, while the type of Dionysus' head is transformed to a beardless one and, on the bigger coins, is not turned to the right but facing; the coins are comparable to the best of Amphipolis and Rhodes. In the next class Ϛ' the obverse type declines to an artless copy of the previous class, and next to the grape and the corn grain, permanently found on all previous classes, a thyrsus is added. In the class Z' Dionysus' head remains unchanged, but almost barbarized, but with the class H' a totally new period begins. The permanent type of the grape, on the coins of all previous classes, is replaced by a double ear of corn and the inscription

M — Y
K — O

is replaced by the following, written with letters of Roman style:

M — Y — K
O — N I
ω — N

[1] The coins 3 and 8 of the *Plate I* belong to the group Γ'. See the *Catalogue*.

00000000000000011:Σχέδιο 1 02/11/2023 08:14 Page 26

COINS STRUCK IN MYCONOS, DELOS AND TENOS BEFORE THE GRECO-PERSIAN WARS

During the years of the great acme of the Cyclades and mostly from the first years of the invention of the coinage at the dawn of the 7th century B.C. many silver coins were struck; at the islands of the Ionian settlers the Aeginetic standard was used, while the Dorians used the Phoenician standard. Aglaosthenes of Naxos testifies in his book *Naxiaca* that it was the Naxians who first struck coins and not the Aeginetans or the Lydians, as it is generally believed.[11] Of course the surviving Naxian coins do not seem to be so ancient as the first Aeginetic or Lydian ones, but there is a didrachm attributed to Naxos on which is depicted the most ancient type of *human figure* on a coin; this piece was found in Thera and bears the head of a Silenus.[12] Such a coin perhaps had in mind Aglaosthenes and, ignoring that the types of animals are older, was led to the above conjecture.

Until now many archaic Cycladic coins have been found, notably on these very islands. So, in 1821 a hoard of 760 silver coins was found in Thera island, the most of them didrachms, registered in detail by H.P. Borell,[13] and later discussed by Wroth in his article "The Santorin find of 1821".[14] A similar find emerged a few years later in Melos, and a third one equally important was recently described by Greenwell in his paper "On a find of archaic Greek coins of the islands of the Aegean sea".[15] Unfortunately these coins are anepigraphic, so their classification is very difficult and only a part of them were recognized as belonging to various Cycladic islands; the rest were characterized

[11] Polydeuces, IX, 6, 83.

[12] Wroth, "The Santorin find of 1821". *Num. Chron.* 1884, pl. XII, 17.

[13] *Num. Chron.* 1843, VI, p. 134.

[14] *Num. Chron.* 1884, pp. 269-280.

[15] *Num. Chron*. 1890, X, pp. 1-12.

00000000000000011:Σχέδιο 1 02/11/2023 08:14 Page 27

MYTHOLOGY AND COIN TYPES

As it is easily seen in the *Plates* and the *Catalogue*, the main type is the *grape* — mostly denoting the jocular element of the island; and, indeed, the wines of the island are still its main product and a famous one in the antiquity.* Plinius includes the Myconian wine in the very best.[72] As a natural consequence, Dionysus was the prominently worshipped god. His ivy-wreathed head or bust were the main types of the obverse of all coins struck after the Greco-Persian Wars, on which the grape of the pre-war struck coins is transferred to the reverse as the main type followed by the Dionysiac thyrsus. On the coins of the years of Augustus, Dionysus is standing, naked, holding a phiale and a thyrsus, probably copying his main statue in the island. In the important decree of sacrifices we read that *Semele*, his mother, and himself as *Baccheus* and *Lenaeus* were also worshipped and because of it two of the months were locally called Bacchiōn and Lenaeōn. Even more the mythological traditions of the island relate its archegetēs Myconus to Dionysus, because Myconus was the son of Anius who was the father of Thasos and Andros, *i.e.* the archegetes of the homonymous islands, where Dionysus was par excellence worshipped, but he also was the father of the famous *Oenotropoi* of Delos, *i.e*. Spermō, Oenō and Elaïs, to whom their grandfather Dionysus *"ἐχαρίσατο ὁπότε βούλοιντο οἶνον, σπέρματα καὶ ἔλαιον ποιεῖν καὶ λαμβάνειν" [= gave the gift of producing and getting wine, corn and olive oil whenever they want]*. Anius' parents were Apollo and the nymph Rhoeō.

(*) Not any more, of course! Unfortunately, today the biggest part of the island is covered of hotels and other touristic settlements; no place, time and vein for viticulture. As far as it concerns the agricultural production, the reader should keep in mind that the original text was wrtitten at the end of the 19th century.

[72] *Hist. natur.*, XIV, 9, 2.

00000000000000011:Σχέδιο 1 02/11/2023 08:14 Page 28

00000000000000011:Σχέδιο 1 02/11/2023 08:14 Page 29

INDEX

Achelōos (river) 45, 57
Aeginetan(s) 31, 50
Aegos Potamoi 40
Aegyptians 27
Aeschines 42
Aetolians 43
Aglaosthenes 9, 31
Ainslie 20, 21, 24
Ajax of Locris 58, 59
Alcibiades 38
Alexander of Pherae 42
Alexander (the Great) 42
Amorgos 38, 49
Amphictyones 41
Anaphe 28, 38, 50
Andriscus 9
Andros 29, 32, 38, 40, 43, 44, 55
Anius 28, 55, 56
Antalcidas 41
Antigonus [I] 42
Antigonus Gonatas 43
Apollo 28, 32, 33, 35, 55-58
Apollo Hecatombius 57
Apollodorus 11, 48, 50, 59
Apollonion 45, 57
Apollonius Rhodius 48
Archelaus 44
Aretades of Cnidus 9
Argos 34
Aristagorē 43
Aristeides "the just" 38
Aristotle 9, 59
Artaphernes 37
Artemision 37
Athena 42, 58
Athenaeus 38
Athenians 29, 33, 38-42, 44
Attalus 43, 44
Attica 29, 33
Augustus 23, 24, 44, 55, 57

Baccheus 55
Bluet, Abel 62
Bochard 27
Bordone 49, 50, 52
Borell 31
British Museum 9
Buondelmonte 49, 50
Burnouf 27
Bursian 46, 47, 49, 52

Caesar 44
Callimachus 9
Carians 27, 28
Carpathos 32
Carthaea 34
Carystus 56
Cassandra 60
Ceos 34, 38, 49
Chabrias 41
Chaeronea 42
Christianá 48
Chrysseïs 56
Cnidus 9, 24, 40

00000000000000011:Σχέδιο 1 02/11/2023 08:14 Page 30

SIATRAS NUMISMATIC SERIES

PUBLISHED VOLUMES

1. G.P. Oeconomos, ΤΟ ΧΑΛΚΟΥΝ ΚΟΜΜΑ – *The Pella Find (1914) and the Copper Coinage of Cassander.*
2. Jean N. Svoronos, The Myron Hoard / 1914 *(IGCH 62).*
3. Edward T. Newell, Late Seleucid Mints in Ake-Ptolemais and Damascus – *Editio nova.*
4. J.N. Svoronos, Constantinian Coinage – The Delos Hoard / 1909.
5. Αναστασίου Τζαμαλή, Τα νομίσματα του νεώτερου ελληνικού κόσμου 1566–2007.
6. Anastasios Tzamalis, Coins of the Modern Greek World 1566–2007.
7. Arthur J. Evans, Syracusan "Medallions" and Their Engravers – *The Santa Maria di Licodia Hoard (IGCH 2123) – Editio nova.*
8. Edward T. Newell, The Coinages of Demetrius Poliorcetes.
9. F.O. Hultsch, Die Gewichte und Werte der ptolemäischen Münzen = Βάρη και αξίες των πτολεμαϊκών νομισμάτων = Weights and Values of the Ptolemaic Coinages.
10. C.M. Constantopoulos, Byzantine Lead Seals - The Stamoules' Collection.